

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

## **Proposal for Export of Jumping Spider of the species *Maratus speciosus* for a Nature Documentary Film Production under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999***

### **1. Introduction**

Japanese public broadcaster NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation, equivalent of the Australian ABC) is currently producing a nature documentary film on jumping spider of the species *Maratus speciosus* which are found in Western Australia. The program is intended for a 30 minutes nature documentary series called "Nature Wonderland", and is expected to be broadcasted in Japan in 2016, with possible international distribution in the near future.

The subject of the film which this application is intended is for a type of jumping spider of the genus *Maratus*. It is endemic to Australia and is known for having colourful abdomen that the males display to females during mating season. Although the spider is becoming relatively known to the public in recent years, their ecology is little studied, despite the fact that they were known to science for 140 years. The film will take a close look at the ecology of the spider, from mating, predation, egg laying, and hatching of the spiderlings.

While most of the filming will take place in the fields in Western Australia, due to the limited production schedule, the filming team wishes to bring back some female specimen to Japan (where the film team is based) and monitor the egg laying and hatching of the spiderlings. This particularly necessary since no one knows for certain when the females will lay their eggs and spiderlings will hatch, and it is extremely difficult to keep an entire film crew waiting abroad for events which one knows when it will occur.

#### **a. Taxa covered**

- This proposal is intended for the exportation of the jumping spider of the species *Maratus speciosus*.

#### **b. Location of collection**

- In Trigg Bushland Reserve in the City of Stirling, Western Australia.

**c. Description of what is being collected**

- The spiders are generally 3-4 mm in length. The specimens intended for exportation were caught live.

**d. Is the species protected under State or Federal legislation?**

- The species are not protected under State law. Under Federal legislation the only protection of the species relates to the export of native wildlife.

## **2. Statement of general goals/aims**

The nature documentary series this particular spider film is intended for is to educate people about the natural world and to promote the understanding and appreciation towards creatures we share our world with. Furthermore it aims to heighten the awareness about the importance of nature conservation, which affects creatures large and small, including human beings.

Additionally, as the subject of the film, spider of the genus *Maratus* is little studied and the knowledge about the full ecology of the spider is limited, the findings from the observation will be fed back to collaborating scientist from Western Australian Museum in forms of documentary film.

## **3. Collection details**

**a. Detail of the location where the collection is to take place**

- In Trigg Bushland Reserve in the City of Stirling, Western Australia in bush (mostly Sea spinach) along the car park area.

**b. Detail of the land ownership**

- Trigg Bushland Reserve is managed by the City of Stirling. Permit to collect fauna has been acquired from both City of Stirling and the Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife.

**c. Quantity intended for collection**

- Of about 15 specimens already collected, maximum of 10 specimens will be

selected for exportation.

**d. Method of collection and equipment used**

- The species were collected using pooters and vials. All species were caught alive.

**e. Timing and duration of collection period.**

- All specimens were collected between September 16 and October 23, 2015

#### **4. Impact of Collection on the Species and the Relevant Ecosystem**

It is not possible to quantify invertebrate populations in the same way as vertebrate population, and the numbers of a particular spider in a particular area can fluctuate dramatically according to a range of environmental factors, but *Maratus speciosus* have been found in a number over a dozen in a single patch of bush in the collection area. We assume there is a healthy population in the collection area, and collection of 10-15 specimens will have minimal impact on the population and the ecosystem. Furthermore, *Maratus speciosus* is said to have a longevity of about one year and the specimen collected would probably still reach their longevity soon and die naturally even if they were not collected.

#### **5. Compliance**

The specimens were collected under all necessary permits including collection permit from City of Stirling and Western Australian Department of Parks Wildlife. Furthermore, exportation permit from Western Australian Department of Parks and Wildlife, Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has also been acquired. Collection was conducted with the supervision of a certified arachnologist from Western Australian Museum, and every measures were taken to avoid unnecessary harm to the specimen and to keep impact on the environment to a minimum.